

1. Parish: Bradfield Combust

Meaning: The wide field (1327 Combust meaning burnt added After burning of Bradfield Hall)

2. **Hundred:** Thedwastre

Deanery: Thedwastre (–1884), Horningsheath (1884–1914)
Horringer (1914–1972), Lavenham (1972–)

Union: Thingoe (1836–1907), Bury St Edmunds (1907–1930)

RDC/UDC: Thingoe RD (–1974), St Edmundsbury DC (1974–)

Other administrative details:

Civil boundary change 1935, gains part of Cockfield
Thingoe and Thedwastre Petty Sessional division
Bury St Edmunds County Court district

3. **Area:** 823 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Mixed:

- a. Fine loam over clay with slowly permeable subsoils, slight seasonal waterlogging. Some calcareous/non calcareous slowly permeable clay soils
- b. Slowly permeable calcareous/non calcareous clay soils. Slight risk water erosion

5. **Types of farming:**

1500–1640	Thirsk:	Wood-pasture region. Mainly pasture, meadow, engaged in rearing and dairying With some pig keeping, horse breeding and poultry. Crops mainly barley and some wheat, rye, oats, peas, vetches, hops and occasionally hemp
1818	Marshall:	Course of crops varies usually including summer fallow as preparation for corn products
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, oats, barley, sugar beet
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal grown and sugar beet

6. **Enclosure:**

7. **Settlement:**

1958 Extremely small settlement on edge of Bradfield Park. Church centrally situated. Railway ran N–S to the east of Park (Disused 1978). Scattered farms

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 13, 1801 – 27, 1851 – 46, 1871 – 33,
1901 – 30, 1951 – 38, 1981 – 37

8. Communications:

Roads: To Alpheton and Lt Whelnetham. Line of Roman road runs through centre of parish
1844 On London road
1891 Carriers to Bury St Edmunds on Wednesday and Saturday

Rail: 1891 1¼ miles Whelnetham station. Opened 1865, closed passengers 1961, closed goods 1965

9. Population:

1098 – 76 (includes Bradfield St Clare and St George) recorded
1327 – 18 taxpayers paid £3 2s.*
1524 – 12 taxpayers paid £0 18s.
1603 – 60 adults
1674 – 18 households
1676 – 53 adults
1801 – 125 inhabitants
1831 – 154 inhabitants
1851 – 203
1871 – 166
1901 – 123
1931 – 148
1951 – 123
1971 – 98
1981 – 118

* includes Stanningfield

10. Benefice: Rectory 1831, Discharged Rectory 1844

1254 Valued £2
1291 Not listed
1535 Valued £4 19s. 7d.
1831 1 curate. Stipend £50 p.a. Glebe house unfit for residence
Incumbent also holds Perpetual Curacy of Hunston
Year modus of £230 in lieu of tithes 1843
1887 Glebe – nil
1912 Value £134 p.a.

Patrons: Robert Cutler (1603), H. Hasted (1831), A.J. Young (1891)
Rev. C.S. Johnston (1912)

11. Church: All Saints

(Chancel, modern vestry, nave, S aisle, S porch, W bell turret)

12th cent. Font
14th cent. Main structure + 15th cent. additions
c.1400 Wall painting in nave of St George, St Christopher and an angel

Late 12th cent. Doorway to N of nave

Seats: 152 free (1874)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1676 5 nonconformists
1711 1 house set aside for worship
Newly erected chapel listed 1814
1912 Primitive Methodist chapel (built 1867)
1867–1967 Bradfield Methodist Church – booklet ‘Out in the Open...’
commemorates centenary

13. Manorial:

1066/1086 Manor of 3 carucates belonging to Abbot of St Edmund
Valued £8

Bradfield Combust al Roos Manor

1234 Links with Felsham (Robert Peche)
1314 Inquis p.m. of Thomas Fitz-Talbott
14th cent. Badlesmere family owns (passing by marriage and inheritance
to Lord Roos)
1539 Links to Gt Waldingfield, Preston, Herringswell, Bradfield
St George, Rougham and Rushbrooke (Sir Thomas Jermyn)
1620 Young family owns

Sub-Manors

Sutton Hall

1461 Vested in Thomas, Lord Roos (annexed to main manor)
1575 Vested in William Spring
1609 Robert Cutter owns

Copinger notes another manor of Bradfield

14th cent. held by William de Ufford (passing by marriage and inheritance
to Willoughby family of Parham)
1855 Said to be vested in Rev J W Wenn

14. Market/Fair:

15. Real Property:

1844 £1,106 rental value
1891 £952 rateable value
1912 £747 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844–1912 Land always sub-divided

17. Resident gentry:

1720	Bartholomew Young, High Sheriff
1844	Miss Mary Young, Rev. H.J. Hasted, MA
1891	A.J. Young
1912	Rev. W.T. Williams, BA

18. Occupations:

1550–1599	1 wheelwright, 2 yeomen, 1 husbandman
1600–1649	5 yeomen, 1 husbandman
1650–1699	3 yeomen, 1 spinster
1844	Blacksmith, wheelwright, schoolmaster, brick/tile maker, victualler, shopkeeper, shoemaker, maltster, 4 farmers
1912	Schoolmistress, blacksmith, 6 farmers, publican

19. Education:

1818	1 day school supported by charitable individuals (19 attend)
1833	1 Sunday school held in house of Arthur Young (40 attend)
1833	1 day and Sunday school (23–30 attend)
1844	Schoomaster listed
1856	Public Elementary school built 1856, average attendance 1912 25
1891	National school (30 attend)

20. Poor relief:

1776	£65 9s. 6d.
1803	£141 6s. 1¼d.
1818	£193 13s.
1830	£197 5s.
1832	£176 6s.
1834	£215 12s.

21. Charities:

22. Other institutions:

23. Recreation:

1844–1912 The Manger public house

24. Personal:

1741–1820 Arthur Young, agriculturalist, social and political writer, born and buried in parish

25. Other information:

Bradfield Hall: Original medieval hall owned by Abbey, reputedly burned down (1327) at period when abbey property was under attack. Second hall built near the site –

pulled down (dates not known). Hall passed into hands of Young family c.1620. New hall erected on same site 1857 by A.J. Young

Mr A. Young planted 40,000+ larches and other trees as nurses for oaks.

Dr Young formed celebrated avenue of limes (planted 1725) – leads from Hall to the church.

Legend: 1. that some of the Abbey silver is buried in Bradfield Hall
Grounds 2. that a tunnel links the original hall site with Crutched Friars, Little
Whelnetham

1 case of incendiarism due to agrarian unrest 1844.